

From: [Harrington, Dwayne](mailto:Harrington.Dwayne@epa.gov)
To: charger22@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: South Jersey Ice update
Date: Monday, July 11, 2016 8:22:44 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Harrington, Dwayne" <Harrington.Dwayne@epa.gov>
Date: July 11, 2016 at 3:51:36 PM EDT
To: R2 ER Mgmt Notification List <R2_ER_Mgmt_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: "Prince, John" <Prince.John@epa.gov>, "McGowan, Michael" <McGowan.Michael@epa.gov>, "Mosher, Eric" <Mosher.Eric@epa.gov>, "Banner, Ellen" <Banner.Ellen@epa.gov>, "Daloia, James" <daloia.james@epa.gov>, "Kodama, Doug" <Kodama.Doug@epa.gov>, "Kluesner, Dave" <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>, "Seppi, Pat" <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>, "Loney, Natalie" <Loney.Natalie@epa.gov>, "Ayala, Wanda" <Ayala.Wanda@epa.gov>, "Regna, Jean" <Regna.Jean@epa.gov>, "Rodriguez, Elias" <Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov>, "Doyle, James" <Doyle.James@epa.gov>, "Lieber, Thomas" <Lieber.Thomas@epa.gov>, "Pellegrino, Carl" <Pellegrino.Carl@epa.gov>, "Lucarino, Kelli" <Lucarino.Kelli@epa.gov>, "Tim.Benton@WestonSolutions.com" <Tim.Benton@WestonSolutions.com>, "ben.nwosu@westonsolutions.com" <ben.nwosu@westonsolutions.com>, "pjohnson@gesoncall.com" <pjohnson@gesoncall.com>, "anthony.carl@dep.nj.gov" <anthony.carl@dep.nj.gov>, "Gary.Pearson@dep.nj.gov" <Gary.Pearson@dep.nj.gov>, "James.Manuel@dep.nj.gov" <James.Manuel@dep.nj.gov>, "Jimenez, Christopher" <Jimenez.Christopher@epa.gov>, "Harrington, Dwayne" <Harrington.Dwayne@epa.gov>, "todd.kast@dep.nj.gov" <todd.kast@dep.nj.gov>, "robert.vanfossen@dep.nj.gov" <robert.vanfossen@dep.nj.gov>
Subject: South Jersey Ice update

Update for 7/11/16:

EPA's refrigeration contractor completed their assessment of the system. They determined that there is no threat of an imminent release at this time, and there is no reason to immediately remove the ammonia from the system, however, the ammonia must be removed and the system decommissioned in a time-critical but nevertheless controlled action. It was estimated that the removal of the ammonia will take approximately one week, with a few days prior preparation.

The items of immediate concern for the system that were observed were inside of the building and were more likely to begin with a small leak rather than fail catastrophically. In addition, an emergency shutdown of the system will result in a pressure drop in the system, which is a safer condition. The inoperable pressure

relief valves are more likely to fail closed rather than open. Most of the system valves are inoperable.

It was determined that the system most likely contains a lower amount of ammonia than previously estimated, due to the way the system is operated. The amount may be closer to the originally estimated 4,500 lbs. The contractor will try to provide an estimate of the ammonia in the system by tomorrow. It was determined that the removal of 85% of the ammonia will essentially eliminate any off-site threat.

The structural inspection of the building determined that an intact internal steel framework provides adequate internal building support, which will prevent catastrophic collapse of any of the internal floors or the roof. The steel frame for the most part holds up the wooden building joists which for the most part hold up the refrigerator piping. There are some areas where ammonia lines are attached to broken joists, and the ammonia lines are essentially supporting the floors above. The structural engineers also agreed that the ammonia should be removed from the system as soon as possible.

Both inspection contractors will provide written reports within the next few days.

The facility owner earlier told EPA (ORC) that he has approximately fifty-six truckloads remaining to be removed, which will take approximately seven days. A tour of the warehouse by EPA determined that most of the floors, including a basement cold storage room, contain substantial amounts of product.

EPA met with the VFD, VHD, and NJDEP to discuss the results of the refrigeration system and building assessment.

It was determined that the relocation of the residents will continue until 85% of the ammonia is removed.

RST will continue to provide 24-hr air monitoring.

EPA is establishing establishing a Unified Command for the incident.

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